

ENVIRONMENTAL Fact Sheet



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 10

April 2005

North Ridge Estates Temporary Relocation Factsheet

Voluntary Relocation Will be Available to North Ridge Estates Residents:

EPA has authorized temporary relocation for the residents of North Ridge Estates who request it. EPA has determined that this voluntary action is appropriate for residents, especially young children, who are at risk for unacceptable exposures to asbestos contamination during the summer.

The temporary relocation is authorized from approximately June 10, 2005 until September 10, 2005. Residents may be a greater risk during this period because:

- children are at home full-time on summer vacation from school;
- the climate is hot, dry and windy during these months which may cause more asbestos to become airborne; and
- EPA anticipates conducting soil-disturbing assessment and removal activity at the site.

Further information and instructions, including relocation applications, will be provided to residents as soon as possible. EPA anticipates drawing upon the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for carrying out this temporary relocation. In the meantime, residents may continue to contact Judy Smith, EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, at (503) 326-6994 for specific questions concerning this action. EPA plans to hold at least one public meeting with residents in May and welcomes community input and questions.

Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Will Evaluate Cleanup Alternatives:

In order to proceed with a final cleanup for the site, under the federal Superfund law, EPA must complete a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) that evaluates alternatives and selects a preferred remedy.

- Future relocation of residents will be one of the alternatives analyzed.
- We anticipate the RI/FS taking 1 ½ to 2 years to complete.
- EPA expects the RI/FS will be fully funded and conducted by the potentially responsible parties in compliance with orders issued by EPA and with EPA oversight.

Asbestos exposure:

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral that has been used in building materials, paper products, plastics, and other products. Exposure to residents at North Ridge Estates mainly occurs during outdoor recreational activities which cause asbestos fibers to be released from asbestos-containing demolition debris in soils. The most dangerous asbestos fibers are too small to be visible. After they are inhaled, they can remain and accumulate in the lungs. Asbestos can cause lung cancer, mesothelioma (a cancer of the chest and abdominal linings), and asbestosis (irreversible lung scarring that can be fatal). Symptoms of these diseases do not show up until many years after exposure began. EPA has classified asbestos as a Group A, known human carcinogen.

For more Information, Contact:

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Or go to EPA's website: yosemite.epa.gov/r10/cleanup.nsf/sites/NRE